(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) for what purpose Government are seeking a loan of such big amount;

(d) what are the details of this agreement; and

(e) how the repayment of this loan will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has agreed to provide IDA credit of US$ 200 million for the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) proposed to be implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The contribution of Government of India shall be US$ 50 million. The objectives of the project include capacity building of ICAR research on production to consumption system in priortiy areas/themes, basic and strategic research in the frontier areas of agricultural sciences and rural livelihood security. The repayment of this credit shall be made according to the standard repayment procedures governing credits from the World Bank.

Recovery of banks' dues

1524. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NPAs of Public Sector Banks have decreased in 2005-06 as compared to 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details of NPAs as on 31st March, 2005 and 31st March, 2006;

(c) what effective measures the Public Sector Banks are taking for expeditious recovery of dues from the borrowers in NPA accounts; and

(d) whether his Ministry propose to start a special drive so as the effectively and quickly recover NPAs from the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Gross Non-performing Assets of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have reduced from 5.5% as on 31st March, 2005 to 4.5% as on 31st December, 2005. Net Non-performing Assets of PSBs have also come down from 2.1% as on 31st March, 2005 to 1.5% as on 31st December, 2005.

(c) and (d) The banks take appropriate action to recover outstanding loans in accordance with their overall loan recovery policies, which, *inter-alia,* include regular follow up of loan accounts, filing of suits in civil courts/

DRTs, issue of notices under SARFAESI Act, 2002, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. The public sector banks have been advised to take effective measures for expeditious recovery of dues from the borrowers, including in NPA accounts.

Declaration of annual income of more than Rs.10 lakhs

1525. SHRI B.K. HARIPARSAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has only 3.5 crore Income-Tax payers of whom just about 85,000 have declared an annual income of more than Rs 10 lakhs;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has barred Government from operating Amnesty Schemes; and

(c) what are the steps being taken to track black money to generate more resources for the economy in the coming budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir, according to statistics maintained by the Income tax Department, the number of income tax assessees is 3.06 crores as on 31st January, 2006 Further, the number of income tax assessees declaring income/loss of Rs. 10 lakhs or more is 1.60 lakhs as on 31st March, 2005.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has not placed any bar on the Government from operating Amnesty Schemes in their decision in the case of All India Federation of Tax Practitioners and another *Vs* Union of India and others (231 ITR 24)

(c) Some of the measures proposed in the Budget 2006 are-

(i) to issue Permanent Account Number (PAN) *suo motto* in respect of certain cases.

(ii) to direct persons to apply for PAN in certain cases.

(iii) to make quoting of PAN mandatory in respect of more transactions in due course.

(iv) to increase the scope of Annual Information Returns (AIRs) by prescribing a few more transactions.